

REMARKS

Claims 2-20 and 22-24 remain pending after the cancellation of claims 1 and 21, which are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Pending independent claims 2, 8, 14, 19 and 20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Hosaka et al '448 in view of Kajimura et al '741. Independent claims 4 and 16 are also rejected over the Hosaka and Kajimura combination, further in view of Hosaka '642 (claim 4) and still further in view of Hosaka '653 (claim 16). Reconsideration of the rejection of the independent claims is requested in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims for the following reasons.

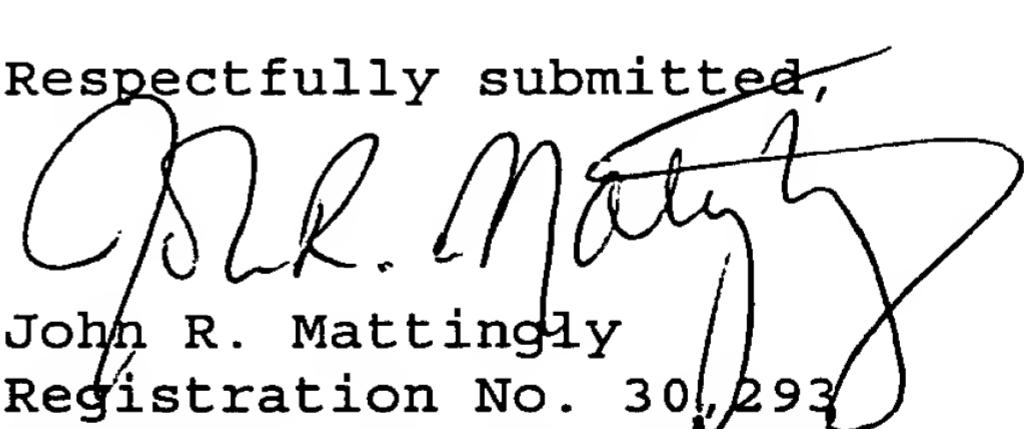
Each of the independent claims has been amended to include that a wide measurement is quickly performed that is defined by a millimeter-class scan area. This limitation is found in the last two lines of claims 2, 4, 8 and 22. In claim 14, the limitation is set forth in the third to last subparagraph and in claim 16 the limitation is set forth in the second subparagraph of the claim. In claim 19, the limitation is set forth in the sixth subparagraph of the claim. In the specification, for example on page 25, lines 3-5 from the bottom of the page, the wide area movement

mechanism is described as making the sample move by a relatively large distance by a movement stroke of tens of mm in mm units.

On the other hand, Hosaka '448 is silent with respect to the disclosure of quickly performing wide measurement defined by a millimeter-class scan area or using a movement mechanism that enables wide measurement defined by a millimeter-class scan area, as claimed by Applicants. Further, the Kajimura '741, Hosaka '642, Hosaka '653 and Okada '004 references are similarly silent in disclosing this aspect of the claimed invention. As a result, each of the pending independent claims, as well as the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the art of record and therefore the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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on Nov 12 2003, by John Mattingly